

***DOE Commission  
on Fire Safety and  
Preparedness***

**Sub Committee #1 – Evaluation of Fire  
Hazards and Risk Assessments  
Conference Call #2  
Notes and Discussion Items  
February 14, 2001**

**Key Discussion Items and Notes**

The following is a brief summary of **key discussion items and notes** from the second conference call of Subcommittee #1 – Evaluation of Fire Hazards and Risk Assessment held February 14, 2001. Conference call participants are listed at the end of these notes. Conference call was chaired by **Jack Snell**.

**Next conference** call of the Subcommittee is targeted for the **week of 12 March**. Conference call number will be provided by e-mail closer to the date of the call.

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**Key Discussion Items:**

- **Frank Russo** spoke to three key items before the Subcommittee began their discussions. Items were:
  - There was a controlled burn at the Y-12 site at Oak Ridge that was briefly out of control. He will be visiting next week and will provide feedback to the committee members.
  - **Steve Cozen** is anticipating the next full committee meeting for sometime in April. Exact date/location is to be determined.
  - The draft of DOE's comprehensive review of fire safety programs and related emergency management capabilities will be in the mail not later than the week of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Plan is for members to take two weeks from receipt to review and then e-mail comments to all members, including Frank.
- **Jack Snell** put forth the agenda for this conference call as follows:
  1. Clear any issues from last time.
  2. Discuss the kinds of data by facility or site that can be expected to be compiled in the group's report.
  3. Talk about things the subcommittee can expect to see in the draft plan pertaining to site visits, and
  4. Solicit other topics for discussion.See discussion notes below for details.
- **Jack Snell** summarized discussions of the subcommittee as follows:
  - We will review DOE's draft plan to ensure sites selected for review fit the criteria of being "comprehensive" and that the vertical slice of the review process is "credible".

- Comments on the Draft plan are due back to Frank Russo by late February.
- This will be the focus of the next subcommittee conference call.

### Next Steps.

- Review Plan, reflect and comment on the comprehensive nature of the plan.
- E-mail comments to all by the end of February.
- Think about activity that the subcommittee is interested in participating in
- Make suggestions and recommendations

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### Discussion Notes:

- **Agenda Items Discussions:**

1. **Issues from last time: Paul Croce** underscored the importance of being able to discern the nature of the “fire culture” at the various sites as a key element to assessing the state of their fire safety and preparedness programs. We must not ignore the “human element”.

**Dan Arnold** talked about going back to look at “work smart” procedures, commenting that they may be different from best practices for fire safety.

2. **Kinds of Data by Facility or Site: Jack Snell** asked subcommittee members to think about the kinds of data that they can expect to see in the DOE comprehensive review. He talked about how to measure level of risk as being a combined index of hazardous materials present and past history of (fire) incidents.

**Bill Boyce** told the members that DOE sites conform with code standards for “High Protection Value” to begin with and then look at other risks present. This does not result in the combining of risk and hazard to arrive at some sort of risk index.

**Jack** asked about what criteria will be used to for judging the comprehensive nature of the sites to be reviewed in DOE’s draft plan.

**Kathleen Almand** suggested that sites selected for review also include some that are scheduled to be decommissioned, suggesting that budget cuts and other competing priorities may potentially be impacting fire safety and preparedness.

3. **Draft Plan and Site Visits:** Mostly covered in discussions of agenda items #s 1 and 2 above.

4. **Other Topics for Discussion: Frank Russo** offered to take subcommittee members with him on site visits conducted as part of the comprehensive review.

- **Issue** of security clearances needs to be addressed for any anticipated site visits.
- **Subcommittee** members discussed and Frank Russo agreed that meeting notes from this and other subcommittees will be distributed to all commission members to keep informed of discussions in all areas.
- **Jack Snell** asked to see copies of the MOAs between Agriculture, BLM and DOE. **Frank** agreed to provide.
- **Frank Russo** indicated he would provide the members a briefing on the Integrated Facility Safety Management Process.

### *Next Conference Call*

**Next conference** call of the Subcommittee is targeted for the **week of 12 March**. Conference call number will be provided by e-mail closer to the date of the call.

### *Conference Call Participants*

- Commission Members:
  - Dan Arnold
  - Ken Burris
  - Dr. Paul Croce
  - Jack Snell and Dave Evans
  - Kathleen Almand
- U.S. Department of Energy
  - Frank Russo, Designated Federal Official
  - Barbie Harshman, Federal Assistant
  - Jim Bisker, Fire Protection Engineer
  - Bill Boyce, Fire Protection Engineer
  - Gina Griego, DOE
- RPI:
  - Bill Hamilton
  - Melinda Watters